

U.S.S.N. 09/380,773
Filed: September 3, 1999
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Remarks

Claims 38-61 and 64 are pending. Claim 50 has been amended. Claim 50 was amended to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 1-37, 62, and 63 were previously canceled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 38-42, 44-61 and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,117,658, to Dennis, et al. Claims 38, 39, and 41-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,117,658 to Dennis et al. ("Dennis"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,512,468 to Greener et al. ("Greener").

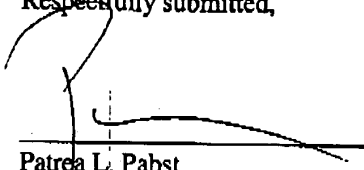
In a phone interview with the undersigned, Patrea Pabst, on October 22, 2003, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the rejections under 102(e) and 103(a) in view of the previously submitted declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131.

However, please note that the examiner is to determine if an interference should be declared, between this application and U.S. Patent No. 6,117,658. In the absence of the Dennis reference, Greener cannot alone make obvious claims 38, 39 and 41-43.

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Allowance of claims 38-61 and 64 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



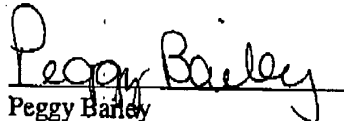
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Date: December 19, 2003

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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Response to Office Action, and any documents referred to as attached therein are being facsimile transmitted on this date, December 23, 2003, to the Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Peggy Bailey

Date: December 19, 2003

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